

Community resources

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Viewing cable 09CARACAS80, PRESIDENTIAL TERM LIMITS REFERENDUM: WHAT'S AT STAKE

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the structure of a cable as well as how to discuss them with others. See also the FAQs

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables (browse by origin to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this WikiSource article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags #cablegate and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. #09CARACAS80.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
09CARACAS80	2009-01-20 21:28	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Caracas

Appears in these articles:

http://www.semana.com/nacion/wikileaks-venezuela-tumbos-oposicion-chavez-segun-eeuu/158452-3.aspx

VZCZCXRO0898  
PP RUEHAO RUEHCD RUEHGA RUEHGD RUEHHA RUEHHO RUEHMC RUEHMT RUEHNG  
RUEHNL RUEHQU RUEHRD RUEHRG RUEHRS RUEHTM RUEHVC  
DE RUEHCV #0080/01 0202128  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 202128Z JAN 09  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATEWASHDC PRIORITY 2458  
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHWH/WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS PRIORITY  
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 CARACAS 000080

SIPDIS

HQSOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD  
DEPARTMENT PASS TO USAID/OTI (RPORTER)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/29/2018

TAGS: PGOV KDEM VE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL TERM LIMITS REFERENDUM: WHAT'S AT STAKE

Classified By: A/POLITICAL COUNSELOR DANIEL LAWTON, REASON 1.4 (D)

1. (C) Summary. President Chavez is seeking to concentrate even more power in his hands via the February 15 referendum to eliminate term limit

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Another Referendum  
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2. (C) President Chavez's second bid to eliminate presidential term limits is a major political gamble with high stakes for Venezuela's fragil

3. (SBU) Chavez announced January 5 that he would alter the amendment proposal language to remove term limits for all elected officials, rathe

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Venezuela At A Crossroads  
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4. (C) President Chavez has successfully accrued greater executive power at the expense of all other branches of government over the course of

5. (C) In late 2008, Chavez suggested he would take a number of steps that would significantly damage Venezuela's fragile democracy. Among the

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If The Referendum Passes?  
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6. (C) Chavez would almost certainly claim a "yes" victory as both a mandate to concentrate even more power in his hands and proof that he is

7. (C) There are few -- if any -- contenders within Chavismo who could successfully challenge an indefinite Chavez administration. The trounci

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And If It Fails?  
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8. (C) President Chavez calibrates the extent to which he deepens and accelerates his Bolivarian revolution based on his perceptions of public

9. (C) A loss could also potentially open the door for ambitious leaders within Chavismo who over the next four years could feel emboldened tc

10. (C) Opposition leaders would also be likely to feel emboldened by a definite end to Chavez's presidential tenure. Although Chavez would st

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National Assembly Elections  
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11. (C) The upcoming referendum will also be a major test of Chavez's support before Venezuela holds National Assembly elections in late 2010.

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Our Strategy  
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12. (C) Chavez is already framing the upcoming referendum not just as a plebiscite on his rule, but as a contest between Venezuelan sovereignt

13. (C) We recommend utilizing available USAID/OTI resources to support Venezuelan civil society efforts to monitor the electoral process and

CAULFIELD